

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A digital video surveillance system for a law enforcement vehicle comprising:  
  
a video camera for generating video signals of an incident, said video camera mounted on said law enforcement vehicle and positioned to view an incident;  
  
a memory buffer for recording said video signals from said video camera;  
  
a controller for selectively generating record and playback signals to record and to display said video signals; and  
  
a digital video recorder responsive to said record signal to record said video signals from said memory buffer on an optical medium, said video recorder responsive to said playback signal to reproduce video signals recorded on said optical medium.
2. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a vault enclosing said digital video recorder.
3. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a display selectively responsive to said video signals generated by said video camera and said video signals reproduced by said digital video recorder to display a video image.
4. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a battery for providing backup power to said digital video surveillance system.

5. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said optical medium is a DVD disk.

6. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 5 further comprising means for combining digital information with said video signals prior to recording on said optical medium to provide a tamper-resistant digital recording.

7. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 6 wherein said digital information is a watermark.

8. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising:

a wireless microphone for generating a radio signal modulated by received audio communications;

a receiver responsive to said radio signal for generating electrical signals corresponding to said audio communications received from said wireless microphone; and logic circuitry for combining said video signals and said electrical signals into a composite signal;

said memory buffer being responsive to said composite signal to continuously record said composite signal;

said video recorder recording said composite signal on said optical medium in response to receiving said record signal and reproducing said composite signal recorded on said optical medium in response to receiving said playback signal.

9. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 8 further comprising a speaker mounted on said law enforcement vehicle responsive to said electrical

signals generated by said receiver and said electrical signals of said composite signal reproduced by said digital video recorder.

10. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a console mounted on said law enforcement vehicle having user-operable controls coupled to said controller for directing the operation of said system.

11. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 10 wherein said console includes a display responsive to said video signals generated by said video camera and said video signals reproduced by said digital video recorder to display a video image.

12. A digital video incident capture system for a law enforcement vehicle comprising:
- a video camera for generating video signals of an incident, said video camera mounted on said law enforcement vehicle and positioned to view said incident ;
  - a wireless microphone adapted to be worn by an operator of said law enforcement vehicle, said wireless microphone generating a radio signal modulated by received audio communications;
  - a receiver responsive to said radio signal for generating electrical signals corresponding to said audio communications received from said wireless microphone;
  - a controller for selectively generating record and playback signals to record and playback said video signals and said electrical signals corresponding to said audio communications;
  - logic circuitry for combining said video signals and said electrical signals into a composite signal;
  - a memory buffer for continuously storing said composite signal;
  - a digital video recorder having a DVD drive and responsive to said record signal from said controller to record said composite signal from said memory buffer on a DVD disk, said recorder responsive to said playback signal to reproduce said composite signal recorded on said DVD disk;
  - a display selectively responsive to said video signals generated by said video camera and said video signals of said composite signal reproduced by said digital video recorder to display a video image; and

a speaker mounted in said law enforcement vehicle responsive to said electrical signals generated by said receiver and said electrical signals of said composite signal reproduced by said digital video recorder.

13. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a vault enclosing said digital video recorder.

14. The digital video incident capture system as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a battery for providing backup power to said digital video incident capture system.

15. The digital video incident capture system as set forth in claim 14 further comprising means for combining digital information said video signals prior to recording on said DVD disk to provide a tamper-resistant digital recording.

16. The digital video incident capture system as set forth in claim 15 wherein said digital information is a watermark.

17. The digital video incident capture system as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a console mounted on said law enforcement vehicle having user-operable controls coupled to said controller for directing the operation of said system.

18. The digital video incident capture system as set forth in claim 17 wherein said display is mounted in said console.

19. A digital video surveillance system for a law enforcement vehicle comprising:

- a video camera for generating video signals, said video camera being mounted on said law enforcement vehicle and positioned to view an incident;
- a history buffer for continuously recording said video signals from said video camera to provide a video history of predetermined duration;
- a controller for selectively generating a record signal and a playback signal;
- a digital video recorder having a disk drive and responsive to said record signal for receiving and recording said video history on an optical medium and for receiving and recording ensuing video signals from said history buffer, and responsive to said playback signal for reproducing video signals recorded on said medium; and
- a display selectively responsive to said video signals from the video camera and said video signals reproduced by said video recorder for displaying a video image.

20. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19 further comprising a vault enclosing said digital video recorder.

21. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19, wherein said optical medium is a DVD disk.

22. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19 further comprising a battery for providing backup power to said digital video surveillance system.

23. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19 further comprising means for combining digital information with said video signals prior to recording on said optical medium to provide a tamper-resistant digital recording.

24. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 23 wherein said digital information is a watermark.

25. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19 further comprising:

a wireless microphone adapted to be worn by an operator of said law enforcement vehicle, said wireless microphone generating a radio signal modulated by received audio communications;

a receiver responsive to said radio signal for generating electrical signals corresponding to said audio communications received from said wireless microphone; and logic circuitry for combining said video signals and said electrical signals into a composite signal;

whereby said memory buffer continuously records said composite signal and said video recorder records said composite signal on said optical medium in response to receiving said record signal and reproduces said composite signal recorded on said optical medium in response to receiving said playback signal.

26. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 25 further comprising a speaker mounted on said law enforcement vehicle responsive to said electrical signals generated by said receiver and said electrical signals of said composite signal reproduced by said digital video recorder.

27. The digital video surveillance system as claimed in claim 25, wherein said digital optical medium is a DVD disk.

28. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 25 further comprising means for combining digital information with said video signals prior to recording on said optical medium to provide a tamper-resistant digital recording.

29. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 28 wherein said digital information is a watermark.

30. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 19 further comprising a console mounted on said law enforcement vehicle having user-operable controls coupled to said controller for directing the operation of said system.

31. The digital video surveillance system as set forth in claim 30 wherein said console includes a video display responsive to said video signals generated by said video camera and said video signals reproduced by said digital video recorder.